nature. Of all the taluks in the State, leprosy prevails most widely in Cochin-Kanayannur, that is, in the tract bordering the sea and the back-water. Though the population of this Taluk is only 26 per cent of that of the State, 55 per cent of the lepers are found in it. I do not assert that there is any connection between a sandy soil or brackish water or putrid fish or other special features of that tract and leprosy. But the fact remains that there is much more of the disease in that tract than elsewhere. I would, therefore, suggest that the Asylum be located in some unobjectionable spot in the laterite regions of the State. This is a counsel not of exact knowledge, but of ordinary prudence and common sense.

President.—I do not know whether any further discussion on this point is necessary. Government insist on having a Leper Asylum. Every endeavour will be made to have a Leper Asylum at an early date.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

My object is achieved, and I do not press the motion..

The Council allowed Mr. Achyuta Menon to withdraw his motion.

President.—We shall pass on to the next Demand.

DEMAND XXIII—Sanitation and Conservancy—Rs. 73 lakh.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Sir, I rise to move for a grant of Rs. 73,500 under Demand XXIII—Sanitation and Conservancy.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

Vaccination comes before Sanitation and Conservancy.

President.—There is no motion to cut or reduce under that budget head. For Sanitation and Conservancy, we have budgetted for less this year.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Yes Sir. That is due to the fact that the contribution to the State General Sanitation Works Proper is

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

less this year than in the previous year. It is Rs. 50,100 in 1100 and 19,000 in 1101.

President.—There is nothing to explain. For Sanitation and Conservancy, it was Rs. 1,14,300 last year.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur.*)

Sir, to whom is travelling allowance provided? Rs. 2,000 is provided for T. A. on page 54.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE(*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

The T. A. of Rs. 2,000 is for the Sanitary Inspectors mainly. There are four Sanitary Inspectors whose duty it is to tour about in affected areas.

President.—What is the work of these Sanitary Inspectors?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

They have got to supervise sanitary arrangements in their areas, construction and repair of tanks and wells, supervision of markets, cart-stands and cattle-stands, vaccination and generally, prevention of epidemics.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

There is an item "lighting charges—Rs. 2,100", below that.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

Lighting charges are for Kunnamkulam and Trippunittura.

President.—Who does the lighting at Trippunittura?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

That is done by the Panchayats. This is all for the use of Kunnamkulam and Trippunittura.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

"Improvements of water-supply—Rs. 10,000"—is it for opening new wells, etc.?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

For sinking new wells and repairing old wells.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

In the rural parts of the State?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

In rural parts, outside Panchayat and Municipal limits.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

This can be transferred to Panchayats.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

These are beyond the power of Panchayats.

President.—Anyhow, that is a question to be proposed for consideration. I noted that point when I looked into the budget. That may be discussed in the Council.

Mr. T. A. RAMACHANDRA AYYAR (*Nellayi*).

There are not Panchayats everywhere.

President.—There are 85 Panchayats; most places have Panchayats.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

From Rs. 2,100 for lighting charges, Trippunittura and Kunnamkulam are lighted. I doubt that. There is no light maintained in Kunnamkulam.

President.—You should have brought it to the notice of the Government.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

There is a provision made for a Bill Collector on page 54, under Rural Sanitation. What is he to do?

President.—Is it on the Receipts side?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

Yes Sir.

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

A Bill Collector is employed in Kunnamkulam to collect private scavenging fees. It is put under the head "Miscellaneous", on the Receipts side, page 9. The receipts under such heads are all put down there.

Motion No. 70.

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,043 for State General Sanitation Works Proper by one rupee.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VADAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

Sir, I rise to move a reduction of one rupee from the allotment of Rs. 40,043 for State. General Sanitation Works Proper.

At the outset, I desire to say that the affairs of Mattancheri have reached such an unsatisfactory state that even we, the members of this House who have come from the mofussil, could not keep silent any longer. One who has the true interests of our State at heart cannot, without being moved with sorrow, read what is being trumpeted about the Municipality in the newspapers in our State and outside. I respectfully submit that the affairs have now reached such a stage that it is now time to think seriously and come to a definite decision about the advisability of allowing to continue the present state of affairs. Whatever happens within the four walls of the Mattancheri Municipality reflects not only upon the Municipal administration there, but on the whole administration of our State; and it is on this ground, Sir, that we strongly urge the Government to put an end to the present unsatisfactory state of affairs. It is not my object to say that this party is right or that party is wrong We strongly recommend, Sir, that till matters improve, not a pie from our public revenues should be given to that Municipality. If the present members do not mend matters, but persistin continuing their present condemnable policy, steps should be unhesitatingly taken to dissolve the present Council; and an opportunity should thus be given to the voters to elect responsible members, who will carry on the Municipal administration, creditably to them, to the Municipality and to our State.

Secondly, I desire to point out the inadvisability of reducing the grant for Sanitation Works Proper. Improving sanitation is more important than increasing the number of doctors and hospitals, for sanitation helps prevention of disease, while doctors and hospitals are only useful for curing disease. We remember what the proverb says, "Prevention is better than cure".

Sir, I beg to submit that the amount allotted for General Sanitation Works, in the budget submitted to

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

us, is unfortunately very small. In the revised budget for 1100, the amount budgetted for General Sanitation Works is Rs. 55,350, whereas for the next year it is only Rs 19,100, that is, about one-third of what has been provided for 1100. I regret to say that the pruning knife has been applied too severely here. The reduction has perhaps been the result of a deficit budget. In the Financial Statement submitted to this House, it is stated that the Government now considers, "It is time for the Municipalities to try to stand on their own legs". Let members of Municipalities speak what they have to say on this observation.

Sir, I have to say a few words about the amount provided for Town Improvement Works. In the Financial Statement, it is stated that "the scope of Town Improvement Works of Kunnamkulam and Trippunittura has also been restricted in the coming year". It is not stated that the scope of improvement has reached its limit and that no further improvements are necessary. The reduction, therefore, must have been due to the nervousness and fear of facing a deficit budget. The Government has admitted that the budget pendulam has now changed its position from the deficit to the surplus side; and it is only reasonable, therefore, to ask for increasing the amount allotted.

In reducing the amount allotted for General Sanitation Works Proper, I regret to point out that Kunnamkulam has suffered the worst. The amount budgetted for Kunnamkulam is only one-fourth of what has been provided for this year. I may say, in general, that the policy adopted by our Government, in allotting money, is based on this principle, if there is any principle at all: "Out of sight out of mind". The Hon'ble Members here from the mofussil will bear out this statement.

Sir, I have also to point out that, in the budget estimate for 1099, the amount allotted for Kunnamkulam Town Improvements was Rs. 8,000 but, from the accounts of the year, we find that only Rs. 3,582 was spent. It is a mystery to me, why the whole budgetted amount was not utilised, when there were many improvements absolutely and immediately necessary. I had asked in one of my questions whether any

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

explanation had been taken from the officer in charge of the work for allowing the sanctioned amount to lapse without executing even immediately necessary works; but no answer to this has yet been placed on the table.

I have already submitted, Sir, that the amount budgetted for Kunnamkulam in the budget before us is very unsatisfactory and too inadequate. Many a year and many a time every year, we have been requesting the Government to widen the 'Naduppanthy' there. All our Diwans who have visited the place have testified to the necessity of it. To begin from as far as my memory goes, Mr. (now Sir) A. R. Banerji had remarked that it should be widened, and following him, Mr. Bhore gave us hopes that orders would be issued to widen it. Next, Mr. Vijayaragava Chari was liberal in his promises. Mr. Narayana Menon, who followed, turned the table upon us and did not hesitate to ask why that work had been so much delayed.

I may point out the main, perhaps the only, reason for postponing the work. It was postponed, till now, on the ground that the whole amount necessary for the completion of the work could not be easily provided in one year's amount to be budgetted for Kunnamkulam Town Improvement Works. If you too, Sir, hold that opinion, the work should be brought under the D. P. W. I may also make another suggestion, and this, I believe, cannot be unacceptable to the Government, if we keep in mind the fact that the situation, demands that the work should be executed to-morrow, if not to-day; and therefore, nothing is gained by postponing the time. I submit, Sir, that steps should be taken to complete the work—which is very important and urgent—within the next two years.

Before concluding, I may add a few words. The Town Improvement Committee of Kunnamkulam is only an ornamental Committee. All its members are nominated by the Government. Its meetings are very irregular. It enjoys no executive powers. Even its recommendations are not given their due weight and respect. I, therefore, respectfully ask what is the use of such a Committee? I request you, Sir, to reconstitute the Committee, introducing the principle

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

of election and to confer at least some elementary powers on the Committee, so that it may prove to be useful to the Government and the people.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, I support the motion. In doing so, may main object is to draw the attention of the Government to the way in which the affairs of these self-governing institutions under the Cochin Government are carried on. Sir, it seems to me that the administration that obtains in some Municipalities of the State is far from satisfactory. Near at hand, in Cochin, as referred to by the Hon'ble mover, matters have advanced too for, and it is high time for the Government to say "halt". There the Chairman and a group of Councillors are day and night fighting with another group of Councillors.

President.—Is it a day and night fight?

Mr. C. A OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Between the parties of such Councillors.

President.—I have no knowledge of such fights.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Sir, only the other day an attempt was made to draw public attention through this House to a latrine that is being built in front of and adjoining the Jewish Cemetery. Sir, the Jews may be a small community in the State. But they are a powerful community with an ancient history and ancient traditions. Where a community feels strongly over a matter, it becomes politics to them. I understand one and all of them feel very strongly about locating the latrine at the proposed site It is the duty of the Government to see that their wrongs are redressed.

The other day, I asked a question to elicit information regarding the body or person to whom money ear-marked for Town Improvment is handed over. The Secretary to the Government replied that the money is made over to the Municipalities. But I understand that in Mattancheri the Chairman receives the money, and that the Municipal Councillors are not allowed to question the use he makes of the money handed over to him, because in his opinion it is not handed over to the Municipal Council but to the Town Improvement Committee. I do not know whether such

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

a Town Improvement Committee exists in Ernakulam or Trichur. Then the practice is for the Municipal Chairman, as Chairman, to spend the money and account for it. The Chairman in Cochin does otherwise. Government should take serious steps in this matter. I am very sorry that neither the member for the Cochin Municipality nor the member for the Jewish constituency is present to-day. They would have brought to the notice of this House what treatment the Jews are receiving at the hands of the Chairman, especially in the matter of the public latrine.

President.—16 of the Councillors voted for it, and, among these 16, one is a Jew himself.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

Now, I understand that the Jewish community is against it; and a majority of the Councillors are against it. That is my information.

President.—The proper way to put it is to bring the question for reconsideration.

Mr. C. A. OUSEPH (*Chalakkudi*).

The question was brought before the Committee, day before yesterday, for reconsideration; but the Chairman did not allow it to be moved.

President.—We have to see how the matter stands. Therefore, I say, it should be seen through.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

In this connection, I may also bring to the notice of the Council that, in the selection of sites for latrines, the responsibility should not be left to the Council. The Medical Officer is the proper person to approve of the site in this respect. That is the general practice in all the Municipalities of the Madras Presidency.

President.—There is a Medical Officer in the Council itself.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Is it a general rule, Sir?

President.—Generally, he will consider the question as to the suitability of the site.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Wherever a latrine is to be constructed, the Chief Medical Officer is to go about the place or the

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

local Medical Officer may be asked to select a site and submit the matter for his approval.

President.—The Chief Medical Officer does not find time to do his legitimate work.

Dr. A. G. MENON (*Tattamangalam*).

Whenever there is to be a selection of site, the Medical Officer may be asked to select the site and make a report to the Government, and only after their approval, the works should be commenced.

President.—Mr. Mathew, do you press your motion?

Mr. MATHEW KOLADI VATAKKOT (*Kunnamkulam*).

I beg to withdraw my motion, if the Council permits.

Mr. Mathew was allowed to withdraw his motion.

Motion No. 71.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for T. A. by Rs. 500.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

Sir, this allotment of Rs. 2,000 is to provide for the travelling allowance of Inspectors. But I have already brought to the notice of the House that they have very little or no work. The work now detailed by the Hon'ble Member for Medicine was assigned to them at a time when Panchayats were not in existence. I do not think, at least, the Chittur Inspector had any work to do, last year or year before last. But I know for certain that he had no other work than to verify 75 per cent of the vaccinated cases.

President.—Has he drawn any T. A?

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

He might have drawn. For the Member for Medicine had represented to us that he had to look to the general sanitation of the place.

President.—In rural parts?

DIWAN BAHADUR Dr. V. VERGHESE (*Chief Medical and Sanitary Officer*).

He has to supervise the sinking of wells, etc., in the Chittur Taluk. So he will be going from place to place.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—I think in Nemmara a well was sunk.

Mr. A. EACHARA MENON (*Chittur*).

It was under the Panchayat. I do not press, however, the motion.

The House permitted Mr. Eachara Menon to withdraw the motion.

President.—The next motion is in the name of Mr. Ambooken.

Motion No. 72

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 73,500 under Sanitation and Conservancy by Rs. 5 000.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

I too do not like to press the motion. Still, I should like to bring certain matters before the House. Sir, here, in the budget, we see an amount of Rs. 33,000 is set apart for Sanitation Works in the rural areas. In this connection, what I have to say is that, in proportion to the amount, the attention paid to the rural areas of the State is very poor. From the details of the account, we see several items. Still, the amounts that properly go in to make up this item are only very nominal. So, either the heading of that detailed account must be changed or the amount must be set apart for Rural Sanitation itself. As far as my expierence is concerned, it is better to place before the House that not a single pie from the allotment for Rural Sanitation goes to Adur.

President.—Not a single pie? Are not Sanitary Inspectors coming there and inspecting ?

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

That is under the Panchayats.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*).

It will be better to transfer these amounts to the Panchayats, so that proper attention may be devoted to sanitation in rural areas.

President.—That question may be considered.

Mr. C. ACHYUTA MENON (*Mulakunnattukavu*).

The Sanitary department serves thoses places of the State which are not served by Panchayats.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

President.—We have got 85 Panchayats.

Mr. EPHRAIM AMBOOKEN (*Adur*)

It is only to bring these matters to the notice of the Government that I have brought this motion.

The motion was permitted to be withdrawn, and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVII.—Public Works—Rs. 14·08 lakhs.

President.—We next proceed to Demand XXVII, Public Works. Before we take up the consideration of that demand, I wish to point out that there are motions by more than one member on the same subject; for instance, in regard to T. A. there are motions by Mr. Eachara Menon, Mr. N. Padmanabha Menon, Mr. C. A., Ouseph, and Mr. M. K. Raman. In regard to buildings, there are three motions, some against the construction of a Leper Asylum by Mr. Ramachandra Ayyar, Mr. C. A. Ouseph, and Mr. Saiem; and in regard to the First Grade College also, there are three motions. I think, we might allow the motion of one of the members to be taken up, and we may discuss all the motions together. Now, I call upon the Chief Engineer to move for the grant.

Mr. V. K. ARAVINDAKSHA MENON (*Chief Engineer*).

Sir, I have pleasure in moving for a grant of Rs. 9,20,259 for the P. W. D. I shall hastily run through the differences in allotments between this year and the next year. In establishment, the excess is due to the pay of the temporary clerk in the Northern Division and periodical increments, &c. Increased provision for T. A. has been due to the increased T. A. of the executive officers. Both Divisions have first class officers now. Their daily allowance as well as that of the sub-divisional officers have been raised on account of the revision. The other items under establishment do not call for any special remarks.

For "Communications—Original" a sum of Rs. 1,75,094 is asked for, against the revised estimate of Rs. 2,08,320 of 1100. The decrease is due to having closed many long pending works this year and in not making provisions for flood damages, as in the case of this year. For "Communication-Repairs and Maintenance" an allotment of Rs. 1,70,395 is asked for, against

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly